

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus in a video display system that is capable of displaying video programs with advertisements on a plurality of channels, wherein said apparatus ~~is capable of preventing~~ prevents a viewer of a video program with advertisements from switching from a first channel to a second channel when an advertisement is displayed on said first channel in response to a first control signal and allowing the switching in response to a second control signal, the second control signal being provided at an end of the video program, wherein ~~the apparatus, prior to the advertisement, generates a notification indicating that advertisements on the first channel must be viewed and, after expiration of a selected period of time after the notification, prevents the viewer is prevented from the switching after expiration of a selected period of time after a notification indicating that said advertisement on said first channel must be viewed.~~
2. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said video display system is capable of displaying a recorded video program with advertisements and said apparatus is further capable of preventing a viewer of said recorded video program from fast forwarding said recorded video program to skip past advertisements in said recorded video program.
3. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 2 wherein said apparatus comprises:
 - an advertisement controller;
 - a memory coupled to said advertisement controller;
 - advertisement control software within said memory;
 - wherein said advertisement controller is capable of executing said advertisement control software to take exclusive control of one of: a channel switching function of said video display system and a fast forwarding function of said video display system.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said advertisement control software comprises:

a Multimedia Home Platform system and Multimedia Home Platform application manager; and

a first Multimedia Home Platform application that is capable of receiving the first control signal, and in response to receiving said first control signal, taking exclusive control of one of: said channel switching function and said fast forwarding function; and

 said first Multimedia Home Platform application further capable of receiving the second control signal, and in response to receiving said second control signal, releasing exclusive control of said one of: said channel switching function and said fast forwarding function.

5. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 4 wherein said advertisement control software comprises:

 a second application that is capable of preventing said first Multimedia Home Platform application from obtaining exclusive control of said one of: said channel switching function and said fast forwarding function.

6. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 5 wherein said second application comprises one of: Multimedia Home Platform software and a Multimedia Home Platform application.

7. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 5 wherein said advertisement control software comprises:

 a third Multimedia Home Platform application that is capable of sending a payment authorization from said viewer to a program broadcaster to authorize said viewer to one of: switch channels during a display of an advertisement in a broadcast video program and fast forward a recorded video program during a display of an advertisement in said recorded video program.

8. (Currently Amended) A video display system that is capable of displaying video programs with advertisements on a plurality of channels, said video display system comprising an apparatus that ~~is capable of preventing~~ prevents a viewer of a video program with advertisements from switching from a first channel to a second channel when an advertisement is displayed on said first channel in response to a first control signal and allowing the switching in response to a second control signal, the second control signal being provided at an end of the video program, wherein the apparatus, prior to the advertisement, generates a notification indicating that advertisements on the first channel must be viewed and, after expiration of a selected period of time after the notification, prevents the viewer is prevented from the switching ~~after expiration of a selected period of time after a notification indicating that said advertisement on said first channel must be viewed.~~

9. (Original) The video display system as claimed in Claim 8 wherein said video display system is capable of displaying a recorded video program with advertisements and said apparatus is further capable of preventing a viewer of said recorded video program from fast forwarding said recorded video program to skip past advertisements in said recorded video program.

10. (Original) The video display system as claimed in Claim 9 wherein said apparatus comprises:

an advertisement controller;
a memory coupled to said advertisement controller;
advertisement control software within said memory;
wherein said advertisement controller is capable of executing said advertisement control software to take exclusive control of one of: a channel switching function of said video display system and a fast forwarding function of said video display system.

11. (Previously Presented) The video display system as claimed in Claim 10 wherein said advertisement control software comprises:

a Multimedia Home Platform system and Multimedia Home Platform application manager; and

a first Multimedia Home Platform application that is capable of receiving the first control signal, and in response to receiving said first control signal, taking exclusive control of one of: said channel switching function and said fast forwarding function; and

 said first Multimedia Home Platform application further capable of receiving the second control signal, and in response to receiving said second control signal, releasing exclusive control of said one of: said channel switching function and said fast forwarding function.

12. (Original) The video display system as claimed in Claim 11 wherein said advertisement control software comprises:

 a second application that is capable of preventing said first Multimedia Home Platform application from obtaining exclusive control of said one of: said channel switching function and said fast forwarding function.

13. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 12 wherein said second application comprises one of: Multimedia Home Platform software and a Multimedia Home Platform application.

14. (Original) The video display system as claimed in Claim 11 wherein said advertisement control software comprises:

 a third Multimedia Home Platform application that is capable of sending a payment authorization from said viewer to a program broadcaster to authorize said viewer to one of: switch channels during a display of an advertisement in a broadcast video program and fast forward a recorded video program during a display of an advertisement in said recorded video program.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for requiring a viewer of a video program to watch advertisements in said video program, said method comprising the steps of:

displaying video programs with advertisements on a plurality of channels in a video display system;

generating, prior to the advertisement, a notification indicating that advertisements on a first channel must be viewed;

preventing said viewer from switching from [[a]] the first channel to a second channel when an advertisement is displayed on said first channel in response to a first control signal and allowing the switching in response to a second control signal, the second control signal being provided at an end of said video program; and

preventing the viewer from the switching after expiration of a selected period of time after [[a]] generating the notification indicating that said advertisement on said first channel must be viewed.

16. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

displaying a recorded video program with advertisements on said video display system; and

preventing a viewer of said recorded video program from fast forwarding said recorded video program to skip past advertisements in said recorded video program.

17. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 16 further comprising the steps of:

providing an advertisement controller in said video display system;

coupling a memory to said advertisement controller;

providing advertisement control software within said memory;

executing said advertisement control software with said advertisement controller to take exclusive control of one of: a channel switching function of said video display system and a fast forwarding function of said video display system.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 17 further comprising the steps of:

providing a Multimedia Home Platform system and Multimedia Home Platform application manager in said advertisement control software; and

providing a first Multimedia Home Platform application that is capable of receiving the first control signal and the second control signal;

in response to receiving said first control signal, causing said first Multimedia Home Platform application to take exclusive control of one of: said channel switching function and said fast forwarding function; and

in response to receiving said second control signal, causing said first Multimedia Home Platform application to release said exclusive control of said one of: said channel switching function and said fast forwarding function.

19. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 18 further comprising the steps of:

providing a second application in said advertisement control software; and
causing said second application to prevent said first Multimedia Home Platform application from obtaining exclusive control of said one of: said channel switching function and said fast forwarding function.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 19 wherein said second application comprises one of: Multimedia Home Platform software and a Multimedia Home Platform application.

21. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 19 further comprising the steps of:

providing a third Multimedia Home Platform application in said advertisement control software; and

causing said third Multimedia Home Platform application to send a payment authorization from said viewer to a program broadcaster to authorize said viewer to one of: switch channels during a display of an advertisement in a broadcast video program and fast forward a recorded video program during a display of an advertisement in said recorded video program.

22. (Currently Amended) Computer-executable instructions stored on a computer-readable storage medium for requiring a viewer of a video program to watch

advertisements in said video program, said computer-executable instructions comprising the steps of:

displaying video programs with advertisements on a plurality of channels in a video display system;

generating, prior to the advertisement, a notification indicating that advertisements on a first channel must be viewed;

preventing said viewer from switching from [[a]] the first channel to a second channel when an advertisement is displayed on said first channel in response to a first control signal and allowing the switching in response to a second control signal, the second control signal being provided at an end of said video program; and

preventing the viewer from the switching after expiration of a selected period of time after [[a]] generating the notification indicating that said advertisement on said first channel must be viewed.

23. (Original) The computer-executable instructions stored on a computer-readable storage medium as claimed in Claim 22 wherein said computer-executable instructions further comprise the steps of:

displaying a recorded video program with advertisements on said video display system; and

preventing a viewer of said recorded video program from fast forwarding said recorded video program to skip past advertisements in said recorded video program.

24. (Original) The computer-executable instructions stored on a computer-readable storage medium as claimed in Claim 23 wherein said computer-executable instructions further comprise the steps of:

accessing advertisement control software that is located within a memory coupled to an advertisement controller in said video display system; and

executing said advertisement control software with said advertisement controller to cause said advertisement controller to take exclusive control of one of: a channel switching function of said video display system and a fast forwarding function of said video display system.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer-executable instructions stored on a computer-readable storage medium as claimed in Claim 24 wherein said computer-executable instructions further comprise the steps of:

accessing a Multimedia Home Platform system and Multimedia Home Platform application manager in said advertisement control software; and

accessing a first Multimedia Home Platform application that is capable of receiving the first control signal and the second control signal;

in response to receiving said first control signal, causing said first Multimedia Home Platform application to take exclusive control of one of: said channel switching function and said fast forwarding function; and

in response to receiving said second control signal, causing said first Multimedia Home Platform application to release said exclusive control of said one of: said channel switching function and said fast forwarding function.

26. (Original) The computer-executable instructions stored on a computer-readable storage medium as claimed in Claim 25 wherein said computer-executable instructions further comprise the steps of:

accessing a second application in said advertisement control software; and

causing said second application to prevent said first Multimedia Home Platform application from obtaining exclusive control of said one of: said channel switching function and said fast forwarding function.

27. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 26 wherein said second application comprises one of: Multimedia Home Platform software and a Multimedia Home Platform application.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer-executable instructions stored on a computer-readable storage medium as claimed in Claim 23 wherein said computer-executable instructions further comprise the steps of:

accessing a third Multimedia Home Platform application in an advertisement control software; and

causing said third Multimedia Home Platform application to send a payment authorization from said viewer to a program broadcaster to authorize said viewer to one of: switch channels during a display of an advertisement in a broadcast video program and fast forward a recorded video program during a display of an advertisement in said recorded video program.

29. (Canceled)